



# Michigan Department of Corrections

# F.Y.I.

Volume 27, Issue 3

March 13, 2015



# Why It Matters

## Staff describe the benefits of the Employee Engagement Survey

On Monday, the 2015 Employee Engagement Survey kicked off with invitations for participation going to the department's 13,000 workers. MDOC leaders are looking forward to receiving your feedback and will use it to continue working hard to make improvements in the department.

We asked corrections staff to tell us about the value they see in the survey and what improvements they've seen as a result of previous surveys.

*The Employee Survey has proven to be a great gauge to determine the concerns of employees.*



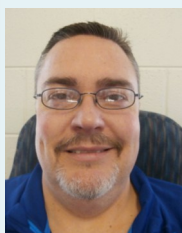
Kaunda Gray

*As a result, our department learned employees desired more engagement between staff and management. In March 2014, we formed a committee to help create a work environment where employees feel respected and appreciated.*

*Since then, the committee has organized a regional bowling tournament and holiday party, participated in community service endeavors, and traveled to various offices within the Metropolitan Territory to provide tokens of appreciation to staff members for a job well done. Even more events are planned. The establishment of the committee confirms that when you express how you feel about your work environment and "let your voice be heard," positive changes can be made.*

— Kaunda Gray, Supervisor, Metropolitan Territory Court Services Unit

*They say "seeing is believing," right?*



Michael Wilkinson

*As a member of the Nurse Advisory Committee (NAC), I have witnessed first hand the Bureau of Health Care Services' commitment to the survey results. As a result, we have added more members and expanded to include the use of subcommittees to help accomplish our goals. BHCS has added a training council and a dedicated training coordinator and has fought hard to secure funds for educating our staff.*

*With the addition of state and local EPIC committees, communication lines have opened and process change is being generated by the staff doing the jobs. Our voice and opinions matter, engagement is available in a variety of ways and there is a consolidated effort to help make things right.*

—Michael Wilkinson, Health Unit Manager, Muskegon Correctional Facility

*Continued on page 3*

### About this edition's cover

This photo came to us from Ray Closson, a corrections officer at Parnall Correctional Facility. It was taken at Stuart's Landing by the Kalamazoo River in Marshall. For the chance to have your photo featured on the cover of the newsletter, email the image and a description of where it was taken to Holly Kramer at [KramerH@michigan.gov](mailto:KramerH@michigan.gov).

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submitted to Holly Kramer at  
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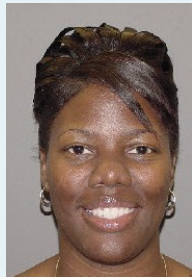
Andrea Johnston

*As an agent from a rural area, I often felt that our voices from the north were not heard by leadership. Then I was offered the opportunity to become a member of the EM COST Team (now the EPIC EM Team), which addresses issues related to the electronic monitoring of offenders.*

*Since becoming part of EPIC, I learned that leadership is interested in making decisions based on research and team recommendations. I found that as part of EPIC, my voice is just as important as someone further up the chain of command.*

*I feel empowered and more positive that my role does make a difference and taking the survey will only help leadership understand how important it is that our voices from near and far are heard.*

**—Andrea Johnston, Probation/Parole Agent, Marquette and Delta Counties**



Nicole Rubin

*Convincing my coworkers that someone is listening is difficult at best. This survey is a way for staff to express the good, bad and the indifferent within the department. This survey gives staff the opportunity to express how they feel about working for the department without feeling targeted. Since the last survey, committees have been formed around the state to address such issues as mistrust of leadership, lack of communication, morale building, and safety and security issues. As a collective body, we should fill out the 2015 Survey to help make the department a better place to work. We want to be able to tell others that the MDOC is not just a place to get a paycheck, but a great environment in which to work.*

**—Nicole Rubin, Corrections Officer, Thumb Correctional Facility**

*This month we all have the opportunity to voice our employment concerns and give valuable feedback regarding leadership, communication and inclusion. The Ojibway EPIC Team wants you to know the Employee Engagement Survey will allow you a confidential voice for change, giving a path forward and a way to measure our progress. Staying on course with the MDOC strategic Plan, we need an engaged workforce willing to let leaders know how we are doing and what still needs to be done.*

*EPIC Teams were developed from past surveys to address your concerns and recommendations. These teams have made advancements in many areas to streamline the department's operations. At our local level, we have members from various areas to ensure a diverse view of the facility. Positive changes were implemented to increase staff inclusion, recognition, communication and professional opportunities. Take advantage of this opportunity to "Help Make Things Right!"*

**—Joshua Ludtke, Corrections Officer, Ojibway Correctional Facility**

Don't forget to give your feedback.

The 2015 Employee Engagement Survey runs through March 30. The survey is an excellent way for you to confidentially provide your input on how we can create a more engaged and effective work environment at MDOC, so please take the opportunity to complete it. Changes have been made as a result of previous surveys, and will continue to be made based on your responses.

Click the links below to...

[Hear what Director Heyns has to say about the value of the survey.](#)

[Find out how your survey information stays anonymous.](#)

[See what other employees are saying about this year's survey.](#)



If you did not receive an email to take the survey, please contact  
[pwcsurveysupport@us.pwc.com](mailto:pwcsurveysupport@us.pwc.com).

## Wardens travel the state to gauge best practices

Perry, Rivard visit CFA and FOA sites to ask about engagement efforts and action plans

**L**ate last year, wardens Mitch Perry and Steve Rivard accepted an important task that sent them to prisons and field offices across the state.

The mission: To find out how staff were working to improve employee engagement.



Warden Mitch Perry

Perry and Rivard met with hundreds of employees from prisons and field operations offices throughout Michigan to gather their thoughts on the work environment and local engagement efforts.



Warden Steve Rivard

Meetings often included executive staff and area or regional managers, but occasionally other interested employees would sit in and offer their feedback.

“Sometimes when I went to the facility, it would be me and the warden,” said Rivard, warden of St. Louis Correctional Facility. “Other times there was 20 to 30 staff there that wanted to know what we were doing. They wanted to know where the department is going and how this was going to benefit them.”

To help keep employees engaged, they found many offices recognized staff efforts with service pins, coins and other awards, and organized team-building activities or social events. Some sought staff input through suggestion boxes or online tools such as SurveyMonkey.

Both Perry and Rivard, who have spent their careers working in Correctional Facilities Administration, said their time with Field Operations Administration staff was especially valuable because it gave them new perspectives.

They said it showed many ways the two branches of corrections could work together and that they experience some of the same problems and issues—such as a need for technological enhancements.

Creating more opportunities for CFA and FOA staff to interact and share resources and information would be beneficial, Perry and Rivard reported.

The department has already offered some opportunities for cross training between CFA and FOA staff.

Traveling to offices across the state was challenging, but provided a great look at the diversity of the department and its operations, said Perry, warden of Newberry Correctional Facility.

Perry and Rivard said they were impressed by the high-caliber employees they encountered.

“The folks we ran into really have a sense for how important the work we do is, and the notion that we play a pretty large part in the law enforcement community,” Perry said. “They’re really taking care of business and doing really impressive things to make the state a safer place.”



## A Day in the Life

EMC staff help track offenders, provide a key link to public safety

**S**ettling into her seat, Betty Jones pulls up a computer screen blinking with activity.

In front of her are 79 active alerts—potential violations by offenders on parole and probation who are wearing GPS monitoring devices.

As a technician for the Department of Corrections' Electronic Monitoring Center, it's her job to help investigate these alerts and serve as a line of defense in catching potential absconders and violators. The center is a hub that never goes dark. Technicians, like Jones, staff the phones 24-hours per day, seven days a week, in eight hour shifts.

They help account for more than 5,000 offenders on parole or probation who are wearing monitoring devices.

The alerts that come through the center could be triggered by a device that has been tampered with, lost its charge or signal, or the offender is not in a location where they should be. The device vibrates to let the offender know that

they have violated a rule and they are to call the center to help resolve it. Warrants are issued for a parolee's arrest when they cannot be reached to clear the alert or, in some cases, if it is determined they are in an improper location.

For instance, warrants are issued within two hours if staff receive notification a device strap has been tampered with and they cannot reach the offender for resolution, which could mean they attempted to remove it and are on the lam.

Warrants are issued within 10 minutes for reported prison escapes or for offenders with serious rule violations actively being pursued by the Absconder Recovery Unit (ARU) or law enforcement.

The center processes about 2,500 Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) entries per month. Most are eventually cancelled when the offender is

reached and explanations are provided for the alert and verified by agents overseeing their case.

*Continued on [Page 6](#)*



Top left: Betty Jones, department technician, calls offenders in an attempt to resolve device alerts before placing them on LEIN.

Top right: Dawn Sledge, department technician, fills out LEIN cancellation forms.

Bottom: Don Matson, operations manager, holds a GPS monitoring device.

Continued from page 5

The work can be complicated, and an array of factors can determine how an alert is handled, including the time it is triggered and the type, with alerts for devices that have potentially been tampered with taking a high priority.

The center's 38 technicians received 8 weeks of training on the LEIN process and on working with the GPS system to help them navigate the complexities of the work.

Jones, who has worked at the center for five years, said she typically handles about 100 calls a day and fields calls from offenders, parole or probation agents, and occasionally the family members of offenders.

"Our goal is always to have them clear the alert and not have to put them on LEIN," Jones said of offenders. "Our goal is to get them back in compliance."

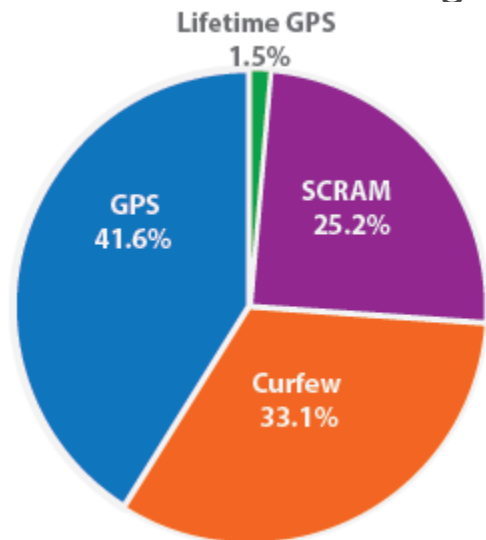
Most offenders under electronic monitoring wear GPS devices that track their movement for a portion of their term of supervision. First-degree criminal sexual conduct offenders and second-degree criminal sexual conduct offenders whose victims were younger than 13 are required to wear the GPS device for the remainder of their life if the offenses were committed on or after Aug. 28, 2006.

Other offenders are only monitored for curfew compliance. The center also helps field calls on offenders wearing SCRAM devices that monitor alcohol use.

The Electronic Monitoring Center is a key link in the criminal justice system, and that's something Jones said she takes pride in when people ask about her work.

"I tell people I'm helping to protect them," she said. "It's about the public's safety."

## Offender Monitoring



Above: A breakdown of the type of monitoring used for the more than 5,000 parolees and probationers under electronic monitoring.

## "Like" your favorite posters on Facebook

The votes may be in on the Bureaucracy Busters poster contest for the 2015 Employee Engagement Survey, but we want to know which MDOC-submitted posters you like best.

Corrections staff submitted 10 different posters into the contest, which asked for designs to help encourage participation in the survey.

To see each entry from MDOC, visit our [Facebook](#) page and "Like" your favorite poster.



Copies of the posters are also being displayed at the work location of each of the employees who entered the contest.

## Military Spotlight

The F.Y.I. would like to showcase the department's military veterans in its May issue.

If you are a military veteran interested in speaking with us for this story, please contact Holly Kramer at [KramerH@michigan.gov](mailto:KramerH@michigan.gov).



## One for the Record Books

### Parole supervisor makes sports history for officiating

**A**s a quiet teenager, Delonda Little turned to basketball as an outlet to help connect with friends and classmates.

The sport, she said, impacted her life by teaching her teamwork and an appreciation for those around her, in addition to serving as her gateway to higher education.



Delonda Little

Office.

Little's officiating achievement made headlines and she was featured in The Detroit News (see page [14](#) for a link to the story).

"It's fun and it keeps me in the game," said Little, who was an All American when she played forward for Wayne State University and was inducted into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005. "I like giving back and working with the kids. That's the biggest thing."

Little began officiating 11 years ago after she was approached by a friend who mentioned a Division 1 official was looking for more African-American women to referee women's basketball games.

Since then she has been respected by coaches and has high ratings from them for both boy's and girl's games, which helped her earn the chance to work the title game.

Detroit Western's coach, Derrick McDowell, told The Detroit News she was "one of the best around, regardless of gender."

Little said her experiences with leadership, diversity and teamwork in basketball have translated well into her work the Department of Corrections.

"The biggest fulfillment I get out of it is when I realize I'm succeeding in helping the offender and they appreciate it," said Little, who has worked for the department for 19 years. "There are a lot of good positive things."

Now she has made an impact on the sport as well.

On Feb. 19, she made basketball history when she became the first female official to work a Public School League title game.

The close match, between Detroit Western and Renaissance, ended in a 46-45 win for Western in a packed Calihan Hall at the University of Detroit Mercy.

"It was a really great experience," said Little, a parole supervisor at metro Detroit's Lawton Parole

## Parole Board appoints members

**T**he Parole Board will have a new member and three others have been reappointed.



Brian Shipman

Brian Shipman, who has been with the Michigan Department of Corrections for 26 years, will join the

Parole Board, effective April 15.

Shipman started his career with MDOC in 1989 as a corrections officer at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility. He went on to hold positions as assistant resident unit supervisor, parole agent, manager of the parole revocation unit and parole board manager.

He has an associate's degree in corrections administration from Lansing Community College and a bachelor's degree in management and organizational development from Spring Arbor University.

In addition to Shipman's appointment, Parole Board members Barb Sampson, Kevin Belk and Sonia Warchock were reappointed to the board.





## MDOC's Dr. Dolittle

Corrections Sgt. earns nickname for resolving wildlife issues

When wildlife manage to stray onto the Oaks Correctional Facility grounds in Manistee, staff know to turn to Sgt. Victor Baker. Baker has become known as the resident animal expert after resolving three separate incidents involving local wildlife.

His affinity for animals was first noticed last summer, after Oaks third-shift staff investigated a zone alarm that was caused by a skunk tapping the perimeter fence with a glass jar that was stuck on its head.

Baker said when he located the skunk, the animal approached him and he stepped on its tail to remove the jar without being sprayed. Once the glass jar had popped off, the skunk ambled away, leaving Baker unscathed.

Two months later, another skunk made its presence known on facility grounds by dispersing its unpleasant aroma.

Baker eventually corralled the skunk with a blanket, then guided it out of the facility.

"It was weird, but it was like it knew I was trying to help it, not hurt it," said Baker, a 14-year veteran of the department who previously served in the National Guard.

In December, Baker also caught a chickadee in his hands that had flown into a housing unit and released it outside.

As a result of the incidents, staff have nicknamed him

"Dr. Dolittle" and "the skunk whisperer."

The animals might be able to detect his familiarity with wildlife. Baker's childhood home did not always include the typical family pets.

In addition to the pigs and goats at his family's farm, skunks, raccoons and porcupines occasionally joined the menagerie.

Baker said his family had three pet skunks, which behaved similarly to cats.

Though his current home does not include any unusual animals, Baker has maintained a love for wildlife and he said he is an avid outdoorsman, who likes to hunt and fish during his time off.

His family now has two dogs, a cat and rabbits, and he said he hopes to teach his five children responsibility and respect for the animals around them.



Sgt. Victor Baker with his family and a family friend at Oswald's Bear Ranch in Newberry.

## Thanks for your newsletter names

Last month, we asked for your help in the quest to find a new name for this newsletter.

We were overwhelmed by your response.

In all, we received more than 100 entries for a new newsletter name.

We'll narrow the field and the final 5 names will be published in the April edition of the newsletter and put to a vote. The winning name will be announced in May and the individual who submitted it will receive a prize.

The deadline to submit a name closed on March 6.

The newsletter has previously been called Celebrate, Deadline, Dialogues, Insider and Signal. It became the F.Y.I. in 1990.

If you know about something an employee has done that deserves some praise or credit, let us know. Email the story to [KramerH@michigan.gov](mailto:KramerH@michigan.gov) and F.Y.I. will share the story with the rest of the MDOC family.



## New Wardens named for three facilities

**Kathy Olson**, who has served as deputy warden of Kinross Correctional Facility since 2011,



Kathy Olson

was named warden of Ojibway Correctional Facility. Olson has worked for the Michigan Department of Corrections for 27 years and

started her career as athletic director/manager at Chippewa Temporary Correctional Facility. She became administrative assistant to the Warden of Kinross Correctional Facility in 2000, and moved to an assistant deputy warden role in 2003. Olson is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and earned a master's degree in public administration from Lake Superior State University and Northern Michigan University. She is also a volunteer for Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Chippewa County Health Access Coalition, is a War Memorial Hospital Auxiliary member and a United Way board member. Her appointment is effective March 15.

**Shane Place**, a 29-year veteran of the Michigan Department of Corrections, has been named



Shane Place

warden of Baraga Correctional Facility.

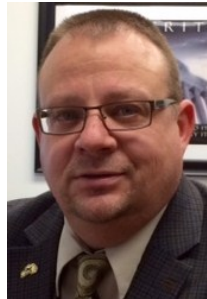
Place has served as deputy warden of Marquette Branch Prison since 2013, and was acting warden of Baraga Correctional Facility in 2012. He has also worked as deputy warden of Baraga Correctional Facility, assistant deputy warden of Marquette Branch Prison and an inspector, captain, lieutenant, custody shift sergeant, housing unit sergeant and resident unit officer at Marquette Branch Prison.

Place started his career with MDOC as a corrections officer at Kinross Correctional Facility and Marquette Branch Prison.

Place is a graduate of Northern Michigan University.

He is a youth hockey coach and former Marquette Junior Hockey Corporation vice president. His appointment is effective March 15.

**Shawn Brewer** became warden of G. Robert Cotton and Parnall correctional facilities on March 1.



Shawn Brewer

Brewer had served as deputy warden of Parnall Correctional Facility since July 2014, and has also served as deputy warden of Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility.

He began his career with MDOC in 1997 as a corrections officer at the State Prison of Southern Michigan. Brewer went on to work as a sergeant at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility and Camp Waterloo, a captain at Riverside Correctional Facility, and an inspector at Oaks Correctional Facility, Muskegon Correctional Facility, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility and Gus Harrison Correctional Facility.

Brewer has a background in criminal justice and is trained in hostage and crisis negotiation, hazardous material response and search and seizure, among other areas.

Four wardens have also become the new leaders of other facilities as of February 15.

**Lori Gidley**, who served as warden of Oaks Correctional Facility, is now warden of Central Michigan Correctional Facility.

**Thomas Mackie**, who was warden of Baraga Correctional Facility, will serve as warden of Oaks Correctional Facility.

**Randall Haas**, formerly warden of G. Robert Cotton and Parnall Correctional Facilities, is now warden of Macomb Correctional Facility.

**Kenneth Romanowski**, formerly warden of Macomb Correctional Facility, will serve as warden of the Detroit Detention Center and Detroit Reentry Center.

## Oakland County Combat Veteran Treatment Court sees first graduates

The Oakland County Combat Veteran Treatment Court held its first graduation two years after the program was created to help military veterans in trouble with the law.

Purple Heart recipient and treatment court participant Sgt. Clyde Willis and Specialist Steven Patino were presented with challenge coins for their successful completion of the program, along with their probation discharge orders, by Chief Judge Nanci Grant in January (see page [14](#) for a link to a news story on the graduation).

The program, which began in 2013, can take 18 months to two years to complete and serves as an alternative to incarceration, said Probation Agent Marseille Allen, who collaborated with Grant to create the program.

It involves intense supervision, mental health and substance abuse treatment, counseling and mentoring with other military veterans.

Allen currently supervises the veteran caseload, as well as the combat veteran treatment court participants, and works with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Oakland County Veteran Services to identify individuals for the program.

Allen, Grant and Sgt. Xayvier Swenson—a mentor to one of the treatment court graduates—were presented with challenge coins by Metropolitan Territory Assistant Deputy Director Beverly Smith for their work and efforts with the program.



## Inmates learn control in ICF's first Level V Violence Prevention Program

Inmates at Ionia Correctional Facility are learning skills for coping with situations that could lead them to violence in the facility's first Level V Violence Prevention Program.

The first prisoners to participate completed the program in December, and additional classes are underway.



The program runs up to four months and teaches Level V prisoners impulse control, communication and problem solving skills, goal setting, and how to identify risk factors that could cause them to lash out.

Jonetta Norris, Corrections Program Coordinator at the facility, said it was difficult at first to get the inmates to change their thought processes, but she hoped it gave them the skills to better manage their actions.

Those skills can also contribute to a safer environment within the facility when prisoners use them to control their behavior, she said.

"It's a worthy cause," Norris said. "I feel good knowing they might take the thought to do something pro-social."



## Taking the Plunge

### Kent County Parole raises more than \$17K in Polar Plunge fundraiser

**W**inter weather did not deter the Kent County Parole Team from diving into icy waters for a good cause.

The team raised more than \$17,000 for the Law Enforcement Torch Run Turk Lake Polar Plunge, which benefited the local Special Olympics program.

Though temperatures warmed to about 40 degrees for the plunge, the Montcalm County Sheriff's Office Dive Team still had to cut through thick ice to give participants a place to jump in.

A total of 130 people participated and were supported by about 800 spectators.

The Kent County Parole Team dominated the awards ceremony. Parole Officer William Decker earned the trophy for "most money raised by an individual" by bringing in \$7,535 alone.

Parole Officers Jonathan Timmers, Sean Wheeler, David Hosfelt, Jason Wayne and Matthew Alles won "best costume" award for dressing as the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Kent County Parole also won "most money raised by a law enforcement agency." A total of \$43,000 was raised during the event.



*Parole Officer William Decker jumps into Turk Lake in February's Polar Plunge. Decker won the award for most money raised.*

Go to our [Facebook page](#) to watch participants take the plunge.

## Spreading the Love

### Alger Correctional Facility, Women's Huron Valley work to aid charities and children



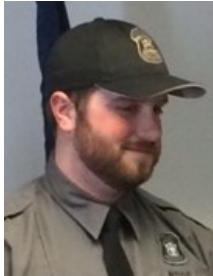
Staff at Alger Correctional Facility raised \$1,455 for the Special Olympics during a Valentine's Day Raffle. All items in the raffle were donated by staff and area businesses.



Staff at Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility helped give 20 children a happy holiday during their third annual Shop with a Corrections Officer event. Each child was given a \$120 gift card and the Saline Wal-Mart contributed another \$10 for them to shop with. WHV staff held several fundraisers throughout the year to help support the event.

## Corrections officers honored for lifesaving efforts

**Brian Green** received the department's lifesaving award for helping to resuscitate an unresponsive prisoner at Gus Harrison Correctional Facility.



Brian Green

Green, who is now a corrections officer at Parnall Correctional Facility, was working at Gus Harrison Correctional Facility in June when he responded to a call for assistance for an unconscious prisoner in a housing unit. He arrived with an AED device, while two other employees were performing CPR on the prisoner.

Green attached the AED to the prisoner and administered a shock when the device indicated it was necessary. When the Emergency Medical Services staff arrived, the prisoner was breathing on his own and he was taken for further assessment.

**Adam Yott** received the department's lifesaving award for assisting a prisoner who was choking in October.



Adam Yott

Yott was working in the chow hall at the Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center, where he is a corrections officer, when he noticed a prisoner who appeared to be choking. The prisoner's face was discolored and he was unable to breathe. Yott immediately radioed the control center for assistance and went to help the prisoner by performing several abdominal thrusts, which dislodged the obstruction allowing the prisoner to breathe again.

### Sign up now for Special Olympics Unified Relay Across America



The Special Olympics Unified Relay Across America will be heading through Michigan on June 9 and 10, and interested runners can sign up now. The relay will pass through Detroit, Ann Arbor and Lansing on June 9 and continue through Lansing on June 10.

The event brings the Flame of Hope across the country, utilizing three separate routes that traverse all 50 states within 44 days, ending in Los Angeles for the Special Olympics World Games. Though it is a Law Enforcement Torch Run-sponsored event, anyone can sign up to be a torchbearer and teams or individuals are encouraged to register.

For more information, or to register, go to [www.unifiedrelay.org](http://www.unifiedrelay.org).

### Saginaw Correctional Facility issues survey challenge

Saginaw Correctional Facility is challenging other facilities to a competition over Employee Engagement Survey participation.

SRF is wagering a clock created by the prison build program, and is asking other facilities to put up a valued item as part of the contest.

The facility with the highest survey participation rate will win all of the wagered items for use or display in their facility. Facilities that want to participate in the challenge can contact Warden Tom Winn at (989) 695-9880 extension 1105, or at [WinnO@michigan.gov](mailto:WinnO@michigan.gov).





## Baraga Correctional Facility staff find Bigfoot and feed the hungry “Snowshoeing with Sasquatch” event provides food for St. Vincent DePaul pantry



**A** fabled forest creature joined hikers and snowshoers in February as they took to Baraga County trails for a charity event.

Baraga County Trails in Motion sponsored its second “Snowshoeing with Sasquatch” event at L’Anse Township Park with donations going to St. Vincent DePaul in L’Anse.

About 75 people attended the free event that featured a bonfire, hot chocolate, photos with Sasquatch and hiking and snowshoeing on nearby trails, in exchange for a monetary or food donation.

Six large boxes of food and \$30 were donated to St. Vincent DePaul.

“Snow comes and goes, but hunger happens all year,” said Joe Bouchard, co-creator of the event and librarian at Baraga Correctional Facility.

Baraga County Trails in Motion, founded in 2010 by Baraga Correctional Facility Sgt. Rich Wickstrom, establishes biking, hiking, snowshoe and cross country ski trails in Baraga County.

## Pugsley Correctional Facility hosts Ground Defense Training

**P**ugsley Correctional Facility’s Emergency Response Team hosted a “Ground Defense Training” in February at the Station 12 Fire House in Traverse City.

Ground defense is used when a law enforcement officer is either knocked down or falls down when trying to subdue an individual. It is used to help protect an officer’s weapon and transition to an escape, or to gain control over a violent offender.

The class included 37 people from public safety organizations around northern Michigan, including the Traverse City Police Department, the Northern Michigan Mutual Aid Emergency Response Team, the Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Wexford county sheriffs departments and 12 from the Department of Corrections.

The program was lead by Master Trainer Kevin Bromley from Oaks Correctional Facility, and PC Luke Blaszak, Corrections Officer Jerry Houck, and Sgt. Matt Lyon.



## Recruitment for March training academies a success

More than 300 new corrections officers will be trained in academy classes starting this month as a result of the success of recruiting efforts.

About 300 recruits will start classes at the Lansing academy with another 50 trained at the academy held at the closed Hiawatha Correctional Facility.



The department is still accepting applications for upcoming corrections officer academies. Dates and locations for those classes are to be determined.

The department is planning to hire about 1,000 new corrections officers this year.

For more information, or to apply, click [here](#).

## Corrections in the News

Click on the headline to read each story.

[It's a first for female basketball referee](#)—  
The Detroit News

[Chief Judge's veterans court credited with saving man's life](#)—The Oakland Press

[State exceeds goal for corrections officer academy](#)—Lansing State Journal

[Reforms to corrections system that died last year back on the table in the Michigan House](#)—  
Mlive Lansing

[Uncommon Ground: Lucas County Sheriff, Detroit prisoner seek solutions to police-community relations](#)—The Toledo Blade

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**JANUARY 2015 RETIREMENTS**

Allen, Willie F. ....	Parnall Correctional Facility
Anderson, Michael A. ....	Baraga Correctional Facility
Armstrong, Bonnie J. ....	G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Baraboll, Walter G. ....	Detroit Reentry Center
Bates, Laura A. ....	St. Louis Correctional Facility
Bentley, Scott ....	St. Louis Correctional Facility
Bickham, Denise L. ....	Chippewa Correctional Facility
Blain, Timmy P. ....	Oaks Correctional Facility
Boatman, Craig S. ....	Parnall Correctional Facility
Bohinski, Gary L. ....	St. Louis Correctional Facility
Boland, Barb J. ....	Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Booker, Sharee ....	Genesee County Probation
Brooks, Dennis L. ....	Chippewa Correctional Facility
Buckner, Robert E. ....	Detroit Reentry Center
Bunce, Scott A. ....	Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility
Burns, Timothy ....	Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
Chappell, Andres C. ....	Detroit Reentry Center
Cross, Floyd A. ....	Parnall Correctional Facility
Cunningham, Warren K. ....	Newberry Correctional Facility
Decker, Michael D. ....	Kinross Correctional Facility
Dent, Michael L. ....	Parnall Correctional Facility
Dumas, Ida Q. ....	Ionia Correctional Facility
Durnell, Jeanne ....	Ionia Correctional Facility
Elston, Jeffrey R. ....	G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Foote, James R. ....	G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility
Freese, Marcia K. ....	Thumb Correctional Facility
Fullerton, Rita J. ....	Parnall Correctional Facility
Halfman, Kevin G. ....	Carson City Correctional Facility
Havens, Jerry A. ....	Central Michigan Correctional Facility
Hindall, Tina L. ....	Gratiot County Parole/Probation

**JANUARY 2015 RETIREMENTS**

Jasmund, Norman ..... Parnall Correctional Facility  
Jenkins, Dalton R. .... Detroit Reentry Center  
Johnson, Ralph ..... Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility  
Johnson, Ronnie E. .... Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility  
Kirksey, A E ..... Thumb Correctional Facility  
Krampe, David S. .... Ionia Correctional Facility  
Larzelere, Jack P. .... Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility  
Lindemuth, Brad O. .... Alger Correctional Facility  
Mahar, Kayle L. .... Chippewa Correctional Facility  
McCullen, Phyllis E. .... Macomb County Probation  
Miller, David ..... Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility  
Mohr, James P. .... Parnall Correctional Facility  
Olson, Kenneth ..... Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility  
Orozco, Sixto M. .... Carson City Correctional Facility  
Page, Michael W. .... Carson City Correctional Facility  
Parsons, Christopher C. .... G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility  
Pefferman, John D. .... St. Louis Correctional Facility  
Perry, Derek J. .... Macomb Correctional Facility  
Pruitt, Dewayne ..... Jackson Human Resources Office  
Pung, Glen G. .... Ionia Correctional Facility  
Pung, James R. .... Ionia Correctional Facility  
Riedel, Robert D. .... Central Michigan Correctional Facility  
Saycocie, Thavisak D. .... Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility  
Schaub, Gary K. .... Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility  
Schaudt, Wayne E. .... MDOC Central Office  
Schmidt, Terry A. .... Carson City Correctional Facility  
Scott, Harold P. .... Kinross Correctional Facility  
Shaw, Richard A. .... Chippewa Correctional Facility  
Sorenson, Kevin L. .... Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility  
Swagart, John A. .... Central Michigan Correctional Facility



**JANUARY 2015 RETIREMENTS**

Thelen, Daniel H. .... Carson City Correctional Facility  
Thurlow, Joe E. .... Thumb Correctional Facility  
Torpey, Thomas J. .... Michigan Reformatory  
Tremblay, Thomas M. .... Chippewa Correctional Facility  
Vanderlaan, Joseph C. .... Muskegon Correctional Facility  
Wade, Gladys B. .... Detroit Reentry Center  
Warson, Gary A. .... Thumb Correctional Facility  
Wartella, Charles L. .... Chippewa Correctional Facility  
Williams, Debra ..... G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility  
Wilson, Carol A. .... Jackson Human Resources Office  
Winger, Vicki M. .... Lakeland Correctional Facility  
Worthey, Kenneth ..... Jackson Human Resources Office  
Wright, Paul J. .... Ionia Correctional Facility  
Young, James A. .... Lakeland Correctional Facility

**JANUARY 2015 NEW HIRES**

Besander, Andrew. .... Power Plant Operator, Marquette Branch Prison  
Buhl, Carli ..... Secretary, Thumb Correctional Facility  
Burdette, James ..... Power Plant Operator, Lakeland Correctional Facility  
Davis, Dawn ..... General Office Assistant, Jackson Central Region  
DeLoach, Shalikia ..... General Office Assistant, Jackson Central Region  
Enright, Coreen ..... Registered Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility  
Fuertez, Aimee ..... Licensed Practical Nurse, Macomb Correctional Facility  
Gallant, Darcie ..... General Office Assistant, Jackson Central Region  
Gates, Adrienne ..... Special Education Teacher, Central Michigan Correctional Facility  
Heggenstaller, Chaste ..... Mental Health Social Worker, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility  
Helinski, Jenna ..... Employment Counselor, Chippewa Correctional Facility  
Kramer, Holly ..... Communications Representative, Corrections Central Office  
Lawson, Matthew ..... Corrections Officer, Ojibway Correctional Facility

**JANUARY 2015 NEW HIRES**

Leask, Connie.....Storekeeper, Northern Region Administration and Support  
Lewis, Camara.....Communications Representative, Corrections Central Office  
Long, Adam .....Special Alternative Incarceration Officer, Cooper Street Correctional Facility  
MacMillan, Nicole .....Parole/Probation Officer, Field Operations Region III  
Malkowski, Karen .....General Office Assistant, Jackson Central Region  
Merrill, Katherine .....Mental Health Social Worker, Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility  
Norton, Harvey .....Registered Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility  
Nurenberg, Clayton .....Departmental Technician, Ionia Correctional Facility  
Ostroski, Debra.....Registered Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility  
Paksi, Julian .....Corrections Officer, Carson City Correctional Facility  
Ross, Marie .....Mental Health Social Worker, Marquette Branch Prison  
Rudloff, Lisa.....General Office Assistant, Jackson Central Region  
Shackelford, Robyn .....Word Processing Assistant, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility  
Sikkema, Keith.....Registered Nurse, Ionia Correctional Facility  
Simpson, Dennis .....Registered Nurse, Woodland Center Correctional Facility  
Sportell, Christopher.....Registered Nurse, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility  
Vandermolen, Jamie.....Registered Nurse, Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility  
Vanderweide, Tracey.....Word Processing Assistant, Field Operations Region III  
White, Curtis .....Industries Production Leader, Michigan State Industries  
Wilson, Antoinette.....School Teacher, Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility  
Wolf, Adam .....Registered Nurse, Detroit Reentry Center